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Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, KS, US

SUBJECT:VANCE TESTIMONY BEFORE SFRC

REF: SEOUL 318

FOLLOWING IS AVAILABLE TEXT OF PORTIONS OF VANCE TESTIMONY BEFORE SFRC REFERRING TO KOREA AND RELATED ITEMS:

QUOTE MR. PERCY: THE QUESTION HAS ALREADY BEEN ASKED, I THINK, ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF FORCES FROM SOUTH KOREA. A STATEMENT WAS MADE BY PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER DURING THE COURSE OF THE ADMINISTRATION (SIC), THAT HE INTENDED TO WITHDRAW FORCES FROM SOUTH KOREA.

HAVING BEEN IN JAPAN WITHIN THE LAST COUPLE OF WEEKS, I KNOW YOU KNOW THAT THERE IS CONCERN ABOUT THIS.

MR. VANCE: YES, I DO.

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SENATOR PERCY: I SENT TO YOU A SEVEN-POINT PROPOSAL THAT WAS THE BEST THAT I COULD DEVELOP AT THE TIME. I DON'T KNOW WHETHER YOU HAD A CHANCE TO SEE IT OR NOT, BUT IS THERE SOMETHING THAT WILL BE DONE GRADUALLY, THOUGHTFULLY, CERTAINLY WITH EMPHASIS ON GROUND FORCES, NOT AIR FORCES,

WHERE THE NORTH HAS A TWO-TO-ONE SUPREMACY OVER THE SOUTH,

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AND IN SUCH A WAY AS TO IN NO WAY ENCOURAGE KIM TO MOVE SOUTH, JUST AS WE, CERTAINLY, MUST USE EVERY INFLUENCE WE HAVE TO RESTRAIN PARK FROM ENGAGING IN AN ACTIVITY WHICH WOULD SOMEHOW INVOLVE US.

MR. VANCE: THE ANSWER IS CLEARLY YES.

FIRST OF ALL, GOVERNOR CARTER MADE IT CLEAR DURING HIS CAMPAIGN IN A NUMBER OF STATEMENTS THAT HE WAS TALKING ONLY ABOUT GROUND FORCES, THAT HE RECOGNIZED THE DISPARITY IN PARTICULARLY AIR FORCES.

AND SECONDLY, WITH RESPECT TO THE QUESTION OF WITHDRAWAL OF GROUND FORCES, HE INDICATED THAT THIS WOULD HAVE TO BE OVER A PHASED BASIS AND ONLY AFTER FULL AND CAREFUL DISCUSSIONS WITH NOT ONLY THE SOUTH KOREANS BUT ALSO WITH THE JAPANESE, WHO HAVE A GREAT INTEREST, AS ALL OF US KNOW, IN THIS QUESTION.

NOW, WE HAVE A SECURITY TREATY WITH SOUTH KOREA. THAT'S A SOLEMN OBLIGATION OF OUR NATION. AND WE WILL IN ANY DIS-CUSSIONS PROCEED WITH PRUDENCE AND CAUTION.

SENATOR PERCY: THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

SENATOR CASE: WELL, FOR EXAMPLE: FOR THE DEFENSE OF EUROPE--OR SOUTH KOREA--WOULD YOU FAVOR NOW, AS FAR AS SETTING UP OUR DEFENSE POSTURE, RELYING ON TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS?
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MR. VANCE: THE POSITION WHICH I PERSONALLY HAVE STATED ON THIS IS, THAT AT THIS POINT I WOULD NOT WITHDRAW ANY TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS FROM EUROPE. THE REASON FOR THAT IS THAT THIS IS ONE OF THE ELEMENTS WHICH IS PART OF THE BARGAINING WHICH IS GOING ON IN CONNECTION WITH THE MUTUAL BALANCED FORCE REDUCTION TALKS--AND I THINK AT THIS POINT TO TALK ABOUT WITHDRAWING TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.

MR. VANCE: I THINK THAT WHATEVER MAY HAVE BEEN THE CASE IN THE PAST WITH RESPECT TO ORIENTATION, THERE CAN BE NO QUESTION THAT THE PACIFIC AND THE COUNTRIES IN THE PACIFIC AND OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD--AFRICA--LATIN AMERICA--ARE OF FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE IN CONNECTION WITH OUR FOREIGN POLICY.

AND CERTAINLY, MORE SPECIFICALLY WITH RESPECT TO JAPAN, IT IS REALLY THE CORNERSTONE OF OUR POLICY IN THE PACIFIC

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AREA; AND I GAN ASSURE YOU, DESPITE THE FACT THAT BY ERROR IT WAS LEFT OFF THAT TENTATIVE AGENDA WHICH WE HAD (AND IT IS NOW ON THE AGENDA) THAT OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE JAPANESE WILL BE OF HIGHEST PRIORITY.

NOW WE HAVE ALL KINDS OF IMPORTANT REASONS FOR THAT:

OUR TRADE RELATIONSHIPS.

THE POSITION THAT JAPAN PLAYS IN THAT PART OF THE WORLD--
ITS IMPORTANCE AS ONE OF THE LEADING INDUSTRIAL NATIONS.

AND MANY OTHER CRITICAL REASONS--

SO THAT INSOFAR AS MY OWN VIEWS ARE CONCERNED, I CONSIDER JAPAN TO BE ONE OF THE CORE ALLIES, ONE OF THE KEY COUNTRIES, AND WILL EXPECT IT TO BE TREATED AS SUCH IN
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CONNECTION WITH OUR FOREIGN POLICY.

SENATOR : MR. VANCE, THERE HAVE BEEN SERIOUS ALLEGATIONS OF ILLEGAL ACTIVITY SPONSORED BY THE SOUTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT WITHIN THE UNITED STATES--INCLUDING BRIBE WITHIN THE CONGRESS.

IF THOSE ALLEGATIONS ARE TRUE,WHAT SIGNIFICANCE WOULD THAT HAVE FOR AMERICAN POLICY TOWARD SOUTH KOREA?

MR. VANCE: CLEARLY, THAT CANNOT HELP BUT ERODE SUPPORT IN THE UNITED STATES FOR SOUTH KOREA.

SENATOR : WOULD IT HAVE ANY EFFECT WITH RESPECT TO OUR OBLIGATIONS TO DEFEND SOUTH KOREA?

MR. VANCE: NO. THE SECURITY TREATY IS THE SECURITY TREATY.
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SENATOR : AND THE DECISION ON WHETHER OR NOT TO WITHDRAW GROUND TROOPS FROM SOUTH KOREA, WOULD BE BASED ON FACTORS OTHER THAN THIS DEVELOPMENT?

MR. VANCE: I THINK THE ANSWER IS 'YES' TO THAT QUESTION. IT WOULD HAVE TO BE.

SENATOR : DO YOU SEE HOW THE UNITED STATES CAN PRESENT ITSELF AS BEING A STANDARD OF MORALITY IN THE WORLD--WITHOUT HAVING SOME KIND OF REACTION TO THIS FACTOR?

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MR. VANCE: I THINK IT IS LIKELY THAT SOME SORT OF REACTION WILL HAVE TO BE MADE WITH RESPECT TO THAT.

ON THE OTHER HAND, NO ONE IS BLAMELESS IN THESE MATTERS, AND I SUPPOSE IT HAS TO BE WEIGHED VERY CAREFULLY WHEN YOU
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DECIDE WHAT THE ACTION IS THAT IS GOING TO BE TAKEN.

SENATOR : IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO TALK 'MORALITY' IN TERMS OF FOREIGN POLICY, ISN'T IT?

MR. VANCE: YES.

SENATOR : BECAUSE, AS YOU POINTED OUT I THINK IN AN ANSWER TO A QUESTION BY SENATOR PELL: 'WE DO HAVE CERTAIN STRATEGIC INTERESTS, MILITARY INTERESTS, DEFENSE INTERESTS--AND WE HAVE TO WEIGH THOSE VERY, VERY CAREFULLY.'

AND I TAKE IT THAT SOUTH KOREA IS IMPORTANT ON ITS OWN TERMS, AND ALSO BECAUSE OF THE PERCEPTION OUR RELATIONSHIP OF SOUTH KOREA--THE PERCEPTION OF THAT IN JAPAN.

HOWEVER, IT IS DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE, ISN'T IT, A MORE OBVIOUS CASE IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES SHOULD SAY SOMETHING, THEN, WITH RESPECT TO CORRUPTION WHICH EXISTS, APPARENTLY, NOT ONLY WITHIN SOUTH KOREA--BUT WHICH IS SPREAD FROM SOUTH KOREA INTO THE CAPITAL OF OUR COUNTRY.

MR. VANCE: THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT THERE HAS TO BE--WHEN THE FACTS ARE DETERMINED, AND IF THEY ARE DETERMINED AS YOU INDICATE THE ALLEGATIONS ARE--THAT THIS IS THE CASE--THAT THERE IS STRONG CONDEMNATION.

THE QUESTION I THOUGHT YOU WERE ASKING WAS: WHAT DO YOU DO THEN, WITH RESPECT TO THE SECURITY SIDE OF THE QUESTION.

SENATOR : YES. IS THERE A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THEIR ACTION AND OUR POLICY--OTHER THAN, SAY A VERBAL CONDEMNATION WHICH WOULD BE FORTHCOMING FROM US?

MR. VANCE: I THINK THIS IS A MATTER THAT WE ARE GOING
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TO HAVE TO LOOK AT VERY, VERY CAREFULLY; AND I THINK I

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HAVE ANSWERED THIS THE BEST I CAN, ON THE FIRST QUESTION

YOU PUT TO ME.

SENATOR : THANK YOU.

CONGRESSMAN: FINALLY, I AM SURE THAT SENATOR PELL WENT INTO THE LAW OF THE SEA.

IN JAPAN, TOO--DEEP FISHES WERE INVOLVED--SOUTH KOREA, AND OUR POSITION THERE--AND THE LAW OF THE SEA--AND ITS DEEP EFFECT UPON THEM. THEY ARE REALLY DEPENDENT UPON FISH.

IS YOUR RECORD STATEMENT THAT WE ARE GOING TO SIT DOWN WITH THE JAPANESE AND EQUITABLY WORK OUT--WE ARE NOT GOING TO BE ARBITRARY ABOUT THIS AND DRAW THE LINE AND SAY: 'GET OUT OF THE 200 MILE LIMIT WHEN IT BECOMES EFFECTIVE."

BUT WE ARE GOING TO WORK OUT WITH THEM WHAT OUR END OBJECTIVE IS. OUR END OBJECTIVE IS TO PRESERVE SUPPLIES, AND THAT IS WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO DO. WE ARE NOT TRYING TO HOLD IT TO OURSELVES. WE ARE TRYING TO STOP THE DEPLETION THAT IS NOW GOING ON--SUCH AS IN WHALES--AND IT'S HAPPENING IN ALL OF THE SEA.

IS THIS OUR OBJECTIVE, TO SIT DOWN WITH OUR FRIENDS IN JAPAN IN AN UNDERSTANDING WAY AND WORK THIS OUT?

MR. VANCE: YES. AND WITH THE CANADIANS AS WELL. UNQUOTE

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